

November 5, 2001

Congressman John Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

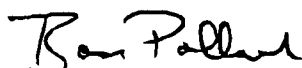
We applaud the provisions in HR 3046, the Medicare Regulatory Relief " bill that address some of the needs of Medicare beneficiaries.

In particular we are especially pleased that you voted out of your committee a bill that includes a process for exceptions to National Coverage Determinations and a prior determination process for certain items and services. Both of these provisions address existing problems for Medicare beneficiaries. Beneficiaries, who may not meet the criteria for receiving care under a national coverage decision, may have special medical circumstances that should make them eligible to get the care. Your bill creates a process by which they are given an opportunity to make the case that this particular individual should receive that care.

Also, your bill allows beneficiaries to learn in advance of getting certain treatment whether Medicare will pay for the care. Millions of beneficiaries go without care when they think they may have to pay for it out of their own pocket. Your bill sets up a process whereby, under certain circumstances, beneficiaries can learn in advance that the needed service is covered so that they can get the care without fear of receiving large bills later.

Please let us know how we can be helpful as this bill moves toward becoming law.

Sincerely,


Ronald F. Pollack
Executive Director